

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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LETTERS FROM DIME NOVEL PUBLISHERS

By Ralph P. Smith

Some twenty years ago, I came into possession of some of the original letters that were written to Will Lisenbee, one of the writers for Beadle and Adams, and other publishers of novels and story papers in the 1880's and 1890's. These letters were written to him by various editors, and concerned the manuscripts which he had submitted to them.

This was in the days of written communications—the typewriter not being in general use—so these long-hand letters in some instances are not as easy to read where the ink has faded in places.

They cover about all the publishers of weekly story papers of the period, and his manuscripts were evidently of various lengths, ranging from a complete novel to a short sketch of perhaps one column or less in length. Here they are:

Frank Leslie's Publishing House. 28 Dec. 1889. "I return your Ms. 'Over the Range,' which in consequence of its merit I have retained so long hoping to be able to use it. I regret however to say that we are so crowded with accepted Ms. that I see no possibility of utilizing it and therefore return it with thanks."

Mrs. Frank Leslie's Publications. 22 Sept. — "I have pleasure in informing you that your Ms. 'Joey's Nigger' has been accepted, price \$12.00."

Street and Smith. Jan. 15, 1894. "We would not care to use a serial of the Cuban rebellion unless it was full of incident and devoid of long historical

paragraphs. We desire live, up-to-date serials, in which the heroes are manly, go-ahead boys. If you send your story we will examine it as quickly as possible, and if found unsuitable will hold it subject to your order." (Good News)

Robert Bonners' Sons. Dec. 4, 1895. "In reply to your favor of December first, we enclose herewith check for \$10.00 accidentally omitted from our last letter." (New York Ledger).

James Elverson. June 5th, 1891. "Enclosed please find check for \$5 in payment for sketch entitled 'Tom Pickett's Leap.'" (Golden Days).

Norman L. Munro. Dec. 26, '88. "Your sketch, 'An Unwelcome Visitor' respectfully declined. There is a slight discrepancy of construction—the father gives the boys explicit orders to lock the stable door, and yet the door of the house is left open so a calf can walk in. We can use sketches if first class, and will consider any further ones you may send." (Golden Hours).

Frank Tousey. June 8, 1897. "Colonel Sprocket's Predicament" submitted for publication in *The White Elephant* has been read. We reserve the right to alter the plot and change the climax of any story as is best in our discretion. We also reserve the right to sign all stories with such names or nom-de-plume as shall best suit our needs. Under these conditions we accept your mss. at \$6.00 payable on publication." (This is a form letter, with the title and price filled in in ink. It is printed with the heading "Poker Chips" a magazine they published at that time. This heading has been crossed off in ink, and "The White Elephant" written above it.)

Norman L. Munro. March 30, 1891.

"In reply to yours am compelled to inform you that it will be useless to submit the serial mentioned as our regular contributors keep us fully supplied." (Golden Hours)

Beadle and Adams. 21st March, 1833. "Here find \$9 check for your sketches: Geronimo. Rinder. Cocoron." (The writing is very poor, and the spelling of the last two sketches may not be correct.)

Beadle and Adams. 19 Dec. 1839. "Here is check for \$9 for the three sketches: His First Case. Incea Hat-ape. Making Desert Bloom. Have so much matter accumulated that we are asking authors to withhold contributions for three months to come." (The second sketch is the nearest translation I can make of the poor writing.)

Beadle and Adams. 24: 2: 91. "Here is check \$50. for your Ms. "Maverick Mose." We shall use it either in the Half Dime Library, or in the NEW Popular Library which is soon to be put on the trade. If you care to do so, you may do your level best on another story of similar length. If we find your work TAKES and you attain a good position on the lists, we will of course advance the price for the stories to \$75. All depends on yourself. A query:—Why WILL Lisenbee? Is not the real name William? We prefer William. "Will" is diminutive—the name of a boy." (Maverick Mose appeared in Beadles Half-Dime Library No. 721.)

I have not checked the appearance of the various sketches that were accepted, and cannot vouch for the journal they ultimately appeared in. However, Lisenbee did write more novels for Beadle and Adams, and let us hope that, "true to their word," they raised the ante.

In most of the old journals, the name Lisenbee keeps appearing as author of sketches, as you all have no doubt noticed. At hand right now are a couple of Beadle publications, The Star Journal of May 31, 1879 containing "Eagle Rock" is a narrative poem by Lisenbee. The Banner Weekly of Sept. 29, 1888 contains a one column sketch by him, "Writing a Novel." Will Lisenbee was also the author of the poem "The Little Beadles," describing the popularity of the Beadle Dime Novels, which he wrote about the time that Dr. O'Brien donated his collection to the New York Public Library, and

which was widely quoted in newspapers at that time, especially as he was one of the few then living, who was one of that large army of original Beadle contributors.

PSEUDONYMS IN POPULAR LITERATURE

by Stanley A. Pachon

Part 3

John Townsend Trowbridge cannot be classified as a Dime Novelist. He did contribute to the story papers of the 1850's and the '60's some, as he called it, "sensational fiction" but most of his writing was for the youth of his day. As "Augustus Holmes" and "Harvey Wilder" he wrote many articles, some of which were later incorporated into the book "Lawrences Adventures Among the Ice-Cutters, Glass Makers, Coal Miners, Iron Men and Ship Builders." Two other pen names he used were "Paul Creyton" and "Jackwood." "A. Laurie" was the pseudonym of Paschal Grousset whose serial The Conquest of the Moon appeared in the Argosy, it proved so popular that it was reprinted again in the pages of the Argosy. Paschal Grousset was a French journalist (born 1844). For some reason Grousset was exiled from France in 1871. The following year he was transported to New Caledonia, but in 1874 he made his escape to England by way of San Francisco and New York. He made England his home and from there most of his stories appeared. "Philippe Daryl," "Doctor Blasius" and "Leopold Virey" were the other pen names he used.

A number of serials appeared in the Golden Argosy and Argosy by "Harry Collingwood" which is the pen name of William J(oseph) C(osens) Lancaster, an English writer of fine adventure tales. Frank R. Stockton who assisted in the editing of St. Nicholas wrote for that publication under the pseudonym of "Paul Fort." Charles Hull Webb (b. 1843) and Alfred Trumble (also b. 1843) both used "Jack Manley" and "Matt Marling" in their contributions to Leslie's Boys and Girls Weekly. Webb, for his other productions used "Caquetteur" and "Pierce Cutting" while Trumble used "Antonio Aquaverde" and "Babbler."

In his fine article in the Round Up

("Frank Merriwell's Father") Mr. Adams gives a list of pen names used by Gilbert Patten which is quite extensive, but as he stated was not complete. In an interview in 1934 on the first radio appearance of Frank Merriwell, Mr. Patten in answer to a query from the interviewer on the pen names he used, gave a list substantially like Mr. Adams but added two new ones not on Mr. Adams list, these were "Herbert Bellwood" (erroneously attributed by Miller to Edward Stratemeyer) and "Emerson Bell." Still unknown is Mr. Patten's penname he used in *The Old Cap Collier Library*.

One of the first mass producers of stories in the popular publications was undoubtedly Sylvanus Cobb Jr. whose stories had much to do with the success of the New York Ledger and the fortunes of its publisher Bonner, a fact that Bonner understood and appreciated. When the Cobb type of story began losing its appeal with the readers of the Ledger, Bonner instead of casting off Cobb put him on a yearly pension of \$4,000 which was paid to Cobb up to the time of his death. During his 30 years association with the Ledger, Cobb contributed to its pages 130 long serials, 834 short stories and 2,305 brief sketches, before he began to contribute to the Ledger he had already authored 36 long serials and over 200 short stories. For all this output, besides his own name he used the following pseudonyms: "Col. Walter Dunlap," "Austin C. Burdick," "Dr. J. H. Robinson," "Dr. S. Le Compton Smith" and possibly others.

Charles Asbury Stephens whose many fine tales of the Maine woods and of Adventures in divers parts of the world studded the pages of *Youth's Companion* was a very prolific author. During the time he was connected with the *Youth's Companion* he contributed over 250 long serials and well over 3,000 short stories and miscellaneous pieces. At times he had as many as six stories in one issue, five of them under nom-de-plume. Only one pen name he used is known to the writer that of "Charles Adams." Would appreciate the information on his other pen names.

Frederick Merrill Van Rensselaer Dey—to give his full name—who wrote the bulk of the Nick Carter Stories, is said to have used over 40 pen names for his short story output alone. Miller

lists ten pen names that he used, others not listed but used by Dey are "Ross Beekman," "Aaron Ainsworth Burr" (for the *Argosy*), "Frederick Ormond," and "Dirck Van Doren." Incidentally his widow is still living.

Edward Stratemeyer is said to have "fathered" over 850 cloth bound books, and how many he himself wrote is anybody's guess. He used a very large number of pen names, but what these were has been a well kept secret. Stratemeyer was not only a prolific writer but also an astute businessman. He is said to have made over a million dollars from his writing and thru the Stratemeyer Syndicate which he founded. Various attempts to write up his life have been discouraged by his family. Among some of the nom-de-plumes he has used were "Jim Bowie," "Nat Woods," "Jim Daly," and "Julia Edwards" (for love stories in the *New York Weekly*). Miller was in error in assigning "Herbert Bellwood," "Arthur Lee Putnam," and "Gayle Winter-ton" as pseudonyms for Edward Stratemeyer.

"Frank Aubrey" pseudonym of F. Atkins who wrote for the *Argosy*. "Frederick Gibson" and "Capt. William B. Perry" were the pseudonyms of William Perry Brown, who also wrote a number of Nick Carters, one of them being Nick Carter's Persistence. 1911. John Roy Musick who wrote so many fine Jessie James tales under the nom-de-plume of "D. W. Stevens" also used "Benjamin Broadaxe." In the *Medal Library* several books were listed as by "Herbert Strang" this was the joint pen name of two authors, George Herbert Ely and C. J. L'Estrange, while the wives of the two authors also wrote jointly under the pseudonym of "Mrs. Herbert Strang"!

So far the writer has been unable to find out the real names of the authors who used the following pen names—maybe some readers may be able to help me out. The names are as follows: "William Ward," "Roy Franklin," "J. W. Duffield," "Frank MacDougal," "Allan Montgomery," "Donald Grayson," "Com. Luther G. Brownell," "Edmond Lawrence," "Roy Eliot Stokes," "Chas. A. Beach," "Homer Randall," "Capt. Taylor Armitage," "Burbank L. Todd," "Vance Barnum," "Halsey Davidson," "Allen Erie," "Nebraska Ned," "Raymond Raife," "Herbert Carter," "Ralph Victor," "Frank

Sheridan," "Ernest A. Young," also under what pseudonyms W. Bert Foster, Frank Glines Patchin, Harrie Irving Hancock and Howard R. Garis wrote under.

This short and informal article is presented to the readers of the Round Up with the hope of awakening greater interest in a subject in which the writer is keenly interested. The writer does not pretend to be an expert on pen names but has made a special effort to acquire whatever information he could on a favorite subject. It is possible that many may not agree with me in assigning a particular pen name to some author, they must remember that some of the pseudonyms were the property of the publishers and at times as many as six writers would use that particular pseudonyms. I would welcome additions, corrections, and criticism to this list from the readers and it is possible that future articles on this subject may be forthcoming.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Lou Kohrt says that Ottenheimer's paper book #5 Jesse James Thrilling Raid by Capt. Kennedy, is the same story word for word as No. 2 of Regan Publishing Corp., Wild West Series. Jesse James Daring Raid and written by Charles Ray.

There's a fine article in the Esquire Mag for Feb. 1950 on the old nickel novels, called "Grandfather Liked them Gory," by Raymond L. Andrews. There are 4 large pictures of 2 Wild Wests #670-693, 1 Fame & Fortune #327 and Work & Win #367. Mr. Andrews writes about the old timers as well as the later colored type as well.

The New York Public Library also has an article on "Outlawing the Horation Alger Hero," by Joseph Johnston. Has 3 pictures of "Risen from the Ranks," "Sam's Chance," and "Bound to Rise," as well as a large picture of the boys today, helping to carry bundles for women who do shopping. Both very good articles.

Jesse Harriman, H. H. Bro. member #188, 26 Tatman St., Quinsig Village, Worcester, Mass., lost his dear mother Mrs. Jean Harriman, Jan. 7th after a long spell of sickness. She was a great reader, up to about 6 months before she died. After that, her son Jesse read

to her every night, after teaching school all day. We all know what you went through Pard, and may God bless you for it, also we all know her suffering is over, and that she is up in heaven among the good angels, God bless her always.

See new advertising rates as follows—6c per Word, \$1.00 per inch, quarter page \$2.25, half page \$3.00, full page \$5.00. After much thought, I've eased it off as much as I can. As I know how high everything is, in these times. All members that are in arrears of 6 months or over, please send in your dues now. Please!!!

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Funderberk, 14 Holis St., Worcester 3, Mass., has had a new addition to the family, a 6 pound boy on Dec. 18th, 1949. Mrs. Funderberk and son are doing fine, and Tommy is the proud father of his first addition, Robert Charles Funderberk. Good Luck to you Tommy, and here's wishing you, the wife, and the new baby the best of everything.

George Flaum sure has a nice lot of early Pluck & Lucks for sale, re his ad in this issue, as well as other old timers, and J. P. Guinon wants old magazines before 1944. So fellers, see what you can dig up for him, also A1 Bookstore.

If it's old books you want, write and send your want lists to the "South End Book Shop," 3 Gardiner St., Worcester 3, Mass. Frank Henry and Joe Bailey, prop.

J. W. Martin has a short article on "Information on Golden Hours." Nos. 16 to 616—original black and whites, no separate covers. Nos. 617 to 652 colored covers, separate covers, 653 to 658 black and white, separate covers, 669 to 692, new heading "The New Golden Hours," 693 to 805 original published heading "Golden Hours." No. 805 is last number I have in my small collection, how high did they go? Nos. 699 to 711 complete article in 13 nos. Experience of a New England Detective, by Allen Graves, chief of Detective Bureau. 712 to 803 complete story "Adventures on the Border." Stories of a scout and hunter told at the evening camp-fire Quelton. 610 photo of Admiral George Dewey, Commander, of U. S. Navy Flagship, Sherman, Manila, Philippines Oct. 9, 1899. 672. Photo of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. Dec. 15th, 1900. 689. Photo of Colonel Wm. F. Cody, Buffalo Bill. April 13, 1901.

Boys Star Library #117. Torpedo Tom, or what a Yankee Boy can do. Sept. 14th 1889, was first printed in the "Boys of New York," Nos. 617 to 626 (1886). This information is from my own files. The longest story in "Boys of New York" was Handsome Harry of the Fighting Belvedere by Gaston Garne, it ran from nos. 444 to 527 nos. The shortest story was #595. The Shortys Christmas Racket, by Peter Pad.

George French is back home now, and is feeling good and is back in the trading mood again.

HENTY HINTS #4 A Search for a Secret

This was the first book written by Henty and was published by Tinsley Bros. in 1867. Brought out in three volumes which was the usual way at that time but one firm was greatly against this and finally they won out and in the eighties most of the publishers had come into line and issued their books under one cover. This is rather a rare title and don't suppose many readers have or had the chance to read it.

As I outlined One of the 28th in the hint before I think it right that I should follow with this. In One of the 28th where the Mother is searching for the hidden will it is the same plot that Henty has used in this his first book. Characters and places and a few minor changes but the plot nevertheless is the same. Col. Henty in One of the 28th simply weaved a boys story around this plot and added the War tale and made his usual Historical Tale for Boys.

HANG ON TO YOUR OLD DIME NOVELS

Nameless Joe Spouts Agin

Many of ye Brothers in the good old era of dime novels have come to me and ask me, why do ye hold onto them thar thrillers. Why ye ask me, why brother to keep me young I sez. Why without em, Id jest feel me age. Sure I could go and plow through Eliots Five foot shelf, and lern all about things what be for them youngsters, but me, nope, I jest hold onto 'em and some day a feller is gunna tap me on the shoulder and say, heres a check

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140 168 176 194.

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642 643 644 645 646 649 650 651 653 655
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674 677 681 684 685 688 690 691 694 695
697 698 699

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774 775 776 777 779 780 787 788 789 793
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493 496

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508 509 510 511 512 513 514 516 518 520
524 526 527 528 532 539 541 543 544 556
561 562 584 607 610 645.

New Tip-Tops at 30c each: 50 53 55
57 60 73 76 79 80 115.

Nick Carter Weeklies at \$1 each: 497
500 501 502

Brave & Bold at \$1 each: 124 417 418
420 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429

Link Rover Library at 75c each: 10
13 35 42 48 49 50 51.

Give alternate numbers if possible and add 25c extra if your order is less than five dollars. Majority like new, some neatly taped. All priced according to condition, rarity and date of publication.

GEORGE T. FLAUM
P. O. Box 4041, St. Petersburg, Fla.

for ten thousand for just two of em, at least I dreamed that one night. I did have a feller once who gave me a right smart check for three of em, true it bounced back, but no doubt the guy jest didn't know he was a wee bit short at the bank. Well Merriwell had wuss done to him than that, what did he do, he jest forgive em, made him a friend and finally cordin to Frankies author the feller finally give him forty thousand, why cause the feller was sorry and discovered a gold mine.

So always take what ever check the feller gives ye, and if it bounces, let it bounce, its gotta simmer sooner or later.

All you fellers what is holdin out waitin for the big take, have faith. In this crazy world the way tis now, anything can happen. Why boys, you with the grey hair, whats left, and the chin whiskers can get more for them thar thrillers than they have stowed away in Davy Jones locker.

Now say fer instance in 1969 you get a few copies of Liberty Boys. Or even Jessie James, a thousand bucks would be chicken feed for them what really want the copy. The only draw back is to find the sucker who really wants it that bad, but there are such guys. For me to earn as much as five bucks one week was jest as hard as some fellers like John D. Rottenfeller to earn fifty million, and I paid forty cents for one copy of Work and Win. So if yer any good at aritmatic, figger it out for yerself.

So while watin for the guy who is sure to come along long after I'm pushin up daisies I'll jest keep pluggin along on my ten bucks per week when I can git it—rest on me laurels is me motto.

In my collection over a period of more moons than one cares to count I have in my hope chest about ten million dollars worth—that is if I figger on what they will bring by 1999. So I go along and figger—the Lord will provide.

FOR SALE

One set of Work & Wins from #1 to 732 with only two nos. (674 and 724) missing. Price \$400.00, a bargain.

J. Reischmann

Rt. 1, Box 364

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116. John P. Dorst, Whitingham, Vt.
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156. Joseph J. Myler, 333 Pelham Rd., Rochester 10, N. Y.
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182. John E. Moore, 5th & Pine Sts., Phillipsburg, Pa.
202. Ernest G. Freeman, 127 Fairfield St., Worcester 2, Mass.
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The Missouri Pacific Railway Co. Guide for 1883. 25c.

E. P. Dutton & Co.'s Map of Massachusetts with Railroads and Townships. 1863. 75c.

The Master Criminal. The Life Story of Charles Peace. 1911. 25c.

The Bush Ranger, or The Half-Breed Brigade. A Romance of the Bush, by Francis Johnson. #30 Beadles American Tales, 1871. This is a fine story of the Bush country. Shows picture of Indian pointing a spear at the Ranger's head, and him on horse back. Good condition. Price \$5.00.

22 copies of old Bee price lists, catalogues and mags, and Bee culture from 1878 to 1890. A nice lot in good condition for \$5.00. Worth lots more to a real Bee keeper.

The Lion-hearted Hunter, or The Captives of the Wyandottes. A tale of the Mahoning, by Capt. Lathan C. Carleton. Munros Ten Cent Novels #45, date 1864. Shows picture of the lion hearted hunter riding a deer bare back thru the woods. This is a grand tale of the Buckeye state. Mouse chewed on bottom of last couple of page, not enough to hurt it. Otherwise good. Price \$3.00

The Red Men of the Woods, or, Long Bob, the Sharp-shooting Hunter, by the author of Rattlesnake Dick. Munro's Ten Cent Novels #53, date 1865. Picture shows a tough looking Indian renegade with rifle and knife in waiting. This is a fine tale of Virginia and Kentucky in the year of 1795. Good condition. Price \$4.00.

Nat, The Trapper and Indian Fighter, by Paul J. Prescott. Beadles Pocket Novels #41, date 1872, shows trapper setting his traps in the high weeds, etc. A fine Indian tale with Wild Nat in the Rocky Mountains. Nice condition. Rare. Price \$5.00.

2 hand bd. vols. Hearth & Home. Vols. 3 nos. 26 to 52 and vol. 1 to 3. Fair. \$2.50. Vol. 5, Nos. 1 to 25 better condition. Price \$3.00 or both for \$5.00. Full of pictures of all kinds.

The Young Ladies Journal #973 to 1024 and Christmas no. date 1883. Bound, back strap gone, outside covers loose. Novels themselves in nice condition, the lot for \$4.00—a bargain.

Harpers Young People Vol. 8. Nos. 366 to 398, bd. Jan. to June, 1887. good. \$3.00.

The Hogarth House Shilling novels—"The Pirates Isle," by George Emmett. Alls Well," by George Emmett. "King of Diamonds," all in nice condition, illustrated. Published in London. Price \$1.00 each.

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.